**Top 10 Strategies for Problem Solving Classes**

1. Attend all classes. Write down the Prof.’s explanation of steps in your notes (print PPT slides/take photos of the board to make this easier.) Highlight or circle formulas/rules and write questions to clarify later.

2. Set time aside to understand concepts before you do problems. Use the book or videos to help develop your understanding. Can you explain the concepts/rules/formulas? If no, keep learning.

3. Test your knowledge by teaching the material without help to a non-STEM student or use a whiteboard to teach yourself out loud.

4. STEM courses are usually cumulative – think about how concepts relate, ask “why” often when learning new material. The more connections you make, the easier it will be to recall material.

5. Do problems from simplest to most complex. Don’t move on to challenging problems until you fully understand the simpler ones.

6. If you used your notes, book, or answers to help you solve a problem, do a similar problem without help to make sure you’re prepared for the exam. During the exam, you will not have notes to help you.

7. Ask yourself questions when doing problems – why are you doing each step and how do you know that it’s the correct move to make?

8. Make sure you can think through a problem on your own after reaching out for help. Watching someone else do problems is helpful, but don’t let them do the problem solving for you.

9. Aim to do some homework after each class. If it’s saved for the last minute, you’ll feel more rushed to get it done than to understand it well.

10. Don’t forget to use the resources that are available to you. Plan time to go to office hours, connect with your TA, read the textbook, review your notes, and go to free honor society tutoring sessions (i.e. AXE)